

Adoption Day marked locally this Tuesday

Probate Court will observe the day by hosting open house

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CHEBOYGAN - As Michigan celebrates its second annual Adoption Day on Tuesday, the Cheboygan County Probate Court will host an open house from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. for prospective adoptive parents.

Last year, Probate and Family Court Judge Robert Butts finalized two adoptions on Adoption Day. Statewide there were more than 250 finalized on Adoption Day. Statistics show that a relative or foster parents adopted 93 percent of those children and that 79 percent of them were adopted with at least one sibling.

This year the court will host the open house to encourage people to find out more about the adoption process.

“Adoptions are always special occasions in our court,” Butts said last year. “We have refreshments, it is a time of happiness.”

In 2001, there were 20 adoption petitions filed locally, in 2002: 14, in 2003: 16 and so far in 2004, nine have been filed, said Butts.

Throughout the state there were 2,469 adoptions finalized through offices of the Family Independence Agency and private adoption agencies, said Butts.

“Adoption Day is one of the single most enjoyable days for young children and adults alike in Michigan,” said FIA director Marianne Udow.” This event has truly showcased the importance and the benefits of adoption for thousands of children.”

Michigan Chief Supreme Court Justice Maura Corrigan said that this year’s event will focus not only on adoption but on alternative ways to help children.

“Last year our primary aim was to inform the public about the adoption process and about all the children in our state who want and need permanent loving homes,” she said.

“But we realize that there are many people of goodwill, who, for various reasons, are not able to adopt a child. Our message to those people is there are other ways they can support foster children, particularly youths who are going to age out of the foster care system.”

Corrigan said that on Adoption Day, the court will unveil a plan for “connecting private goodwill to foster children’s needs.”

Butts said that the public is welcome to visit the Probate Court office for adoption information any day of the week. Cheboygan is one of more than 40 counties that are hosting events in honor of Adoption Day.

Probate Court is located upstairs at the Cheboygan County Building at 870 S. Main St. Call 627-8823.